

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 1948

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Dear Local Presidents:

ON February 17 we shall be commemorating our fifty-first anniversary of service to the children of America. And that date should hold rich significance, not only for us but for the young people of our country. We cannot estimate how deep might have been their loss if the parent-teacher organization had not come into being in 1897. But we *do* know how great has been their gain!

Although I shall be back home in time to celebrate Founders Day with you, I am writing this message from Caracas, Venezuela, where, as I told you last month, I have come to attend the Ninth Pan American Child Congress. Already this trip has made me realize—even more than before—that the purposes of the parent-teacher organization are so valid, so sound, that they are truly international in scope and timeless in character. For the very holding of this Child Congress shows that persons from many lands are likewise concerned with what has always been our chief concern: the welfare of children.

Next month I shall bring you a full account of the Child Congress, but in the meantime I want to share with you some of the details of my journey.

Leaving my home in Arlington on Christmas night, I arrived in New Orleans on the morning of the twenty-sixth, expecting to sail promptly at 11:00 a.m. However, a heavy cargo loading delayed our departure, so I spent some time enjoying New Orleans, which was beautifully decorated in its Christmas garb.

By 3:00 p.m. most of the passengers, along with many friends and relatives who had come to see them off, were gathered at the wharf. I was most grateful for the sheaf of letters, Christmas cards, and telegrams handed to me just before embarking.

At five o'clock the gangplank was finally rolled away, and we were off amid a shower of confetti and ribbons. The *Corsair* is a beautiful ship, so new that this was only its tenth cruise. Built originally for the U.S. Maritime Commission, it accommodates some sixty passengers and a crew of one hundred.

On Monday, December 29, we arrived at Kingston, the capital of Jamaica. Here the streets are poorly paved, the sidewalks sketchy, the stores dingy, and the government buildings unimposing. We toured the island on the following day, making a 140-mile trip over the Blue Mountains, which have an altitude of 5,000 feet. Of course we saw miles of beautiful scenery—cocoa nut groves, banana plantations, and sugar cane fields. When we returned to the wharf at dusk, we were besieged by natives selling their wares—baskets of every shape and size, handbags, mats, and hats.

EARLY on the morning of January 1, we docked at Curacao (pronounced Cure-a-so), a Dutch possession that is much different from Jamaica, for it has substantial homes, paved roads, and prosperous-looking residents. Because it was New Year's Day, all shops, hotels, and restaurants were closed, and taxis were extremely difficult to obtain. However, four of us finally succeeded in engaging a cab for a drive through the city and some of the countryside.

Curacao's only industry is a huge oil refinery, which is the largest in the world. Since the island is volcanic in origin, there is no natural growth. Though a few shrubs, trees, and small gardens have been planted, all food is shipped in, and we were told that if the harbor were ever barricaded the people would starve in short order.

At six o'clock we sailed for La Guira, the port about twelve miles from Caracas, Venezuela. Early in the morning of January 2 the immigration officers came aboard to examine our passports. Then a messenger from the American Consul's office informed me that a representative of the American Embassy would meet me and take me over to Caracas. Sure enough, a young gentleman named Joseph Reis, bearing the compliments of the Ambassador, was waiting at the dock. The Ambassador had sent his car and chauffeur to meet me.

The hour-and-a-half ride to Caracas was most interesting; the scenery is simply beyond compare. High mountains rise sharply from the sea, and we

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The Andrés Bello High School in Caracas, Venezuela, at which the Ninth Pan American Child Congress was held on January 5-10.

LOS OBJETOS

Los Objetos del Congreso Nacional de Padres y Maestros son los siguientes:

- Promover el bienestar de los niños y de la juventud en el hogar, la escuela, la iglesia, y en la comunidad.
- Levantar el nivel del hogar.
- Obtener leyes adecuadas para el cuidado y la protección de los niños y de la juventud.
- Unir la relación del hogar y de la escuela para que los padres y los maestros cooperen inteligentemente en la enseñanza del niño.
- Desarrollar esfuerzo unido entre los educadores y el público en general para asegurar a cada niño oportunidades más elevadas de educación física, mental, social, y espiritual.

El número de socios—4,486,855

This is how the Objects of the National Congress look in Spanish! At the Child Congress in Caracas, Venezuela, our national president distributed cards like the one reproduced here.

(Continued from page 1)

didn't lose sight of the ocean until we were almost in Caracas.

The National Hotel, where my room had been reserved, is in the heart of the city. It had been opened only ten days before my arrival; in fact, I am the first person to have occupied my room. The entire hotel is modern in design and furnishings, and the picture window (eight feet wide) in my room commands a magnificent view of the city and the mountains. At night I cannot tell where the distant lights leave off and the stars begin.

At luncheon that first day a charming person, who introduced herself as Josefina Caronil, came to my table and said she had driven over to La Guira to meet me but had been misinformed about our arrival time. She is the assistant to Dr. Mendoza, secretary general of the Child Congress, and is serving on the official welcoming committee. She was a delegate from her country to UNESCO in Paris last fall.

NATIONAL CONGRESS CONVENTION Cleveland, Ohio

May 24, 25, and 26, 1948

The Statler Hotel will be the official headquarters for our fifty-first convention. Meetings will be held in Cleveland's modern municipal auditorium.

A large delegation is expected. It is a legitimate use of P.T.A. funds—at state, district, council, and local levels—to pay for all or part of a delegate's expenses to this important parent-teacher meeting.

Caracas now has a population of 350,000 and is growing rapidly, and one sees a good deal of building going on.

On Sunday, January 4, the delegates registered at the Andrés Bello High School, which is by all odds the most beautiful school building I have ever seen. Costing well over a million dollars, I know of no equal to it in the United States. Its block-long corridors are decorated with pictures of surpassing beauty, portraying activities related to the health, education, and welfare of children.

AS this *Bulletin* goes to press, the conference is just opening, but already I can assure you that the sessions have been carefully planned, and no expense has been spared to make the meeting an outstanding success. I know I shall have much to report in March regarding the kind of *world understanding* I am now seeing demonstrated in Venezuela.

As we observe the birthday of our organization, let us resolve to hold steadfastly to the ideals of our Founders, who were truly world-minded in their concept of child welfare. These ideals are shining beacons that illumine our course as clearly today as they did more than fifty years ago.

Faithfully yours,

Mabel H. Hughes

President

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

No More Back Copies of . . . NATIONAL PARENT- TEACHER MAGAZINE

Because of increased production costs and the great amount of detail involved in supplying subscribers with back copies of the *National Parent-Teacher*, all subscriptions from now on will start with the issue current when the order is received. For example, if a subscriber orders the magazine in February and we do not get the order until March, the subscription will automatically start with the March issue. In other words, we will not be able to send the subscriber a copy of the February issue even if he makes a special request for it.

Although this new procedure may handicap those persons who delay sending in their orders, it will help greatly to speed up our delivery to all subscribers, for it will release for other work personnel and equipment previously assigned to the mailing of back copies.

All magazine chairmen are requested to *begin now* to inform P.T.A. members of this change in procedure. They should get in touch immediately with leaders of study groups that use the *National Parent-Teacher*, telling them to urge study group members to renew their present subscriptions *a month in advance*. All new subscribers who wish their subscriptions started with the September 1948 issue should get their orders in during August and September. Otherwise they may miss the first of the study course articles.

We hope that every person who reads the *Bulletin* will help pass along this information. When our people know the reason for changes and are given sufficient time to make necessary adjustments, difficulties do not ensue. Therefore please *start now* to publicize this announcement among the parent-teacher members in your acquaintance.

Have You Enough Membership Cards?

Now is the time to take inventory on your supply of membership cards. So far this year 6,265,358 cards have been supplied to the state offices. This should indicate a great increase in membership. If the number of cards you now have on hand is running low, get in touch with your state membership chairman or your state office. Membership cards are not distributed to local units direct from the National Office.



FOUR-POINT PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

1. School Education
2. Health
3. World Understanding
4. Parent and Family Life Education

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

HAVE you ever thought what the Four-Point Program means in the life of a particular child with a special problem—perhaps a physical or mental handicap, perhaps an emotional disturbance, perhaps a special ability or disability of some kind? Have you ever thought that, if the Four-Point Program is to mean anything in the lives of *all* children, it must be translated in terms of the needs of *individual* children? Health, school education, parent and family life education, world understanding—every one of these has a positive bearing upon our work for exceptional children.

Chairmen of exceptional child committees are key persons in bringing to the local unit the information, material, and suggestions needed to advance community services for exceptional children. How can they do this and, in doing so, further implement the areas of *school education, health, world understanding, and parent and family life education*?

Here are some suggestions on how the work of the local exceptional child chairman can be correlated with that of the state chairman and the national chairman:

1. *Read every article and any other bit of material you can find on handicapped or exceptional children, especially the material in *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*. Popular magazines and newspapers are now giving more and more attention to these problems.*

2. *Ask your state chairman to share with you the packet material sent to him by the national chairman. Many of the items in these packets are available free of charge; others can be secured at nominal cost.*
3. *Send for additional copies of any materials you find that you think will be helpful to members of your local unit.*
4. *Ask for time at P.T.A. meetings to discuss the needs of exceptional children, and the remedial programs carried out in their behalf.*
5. *Ask your state chairman for suggestions about activities that can be carried on in your local community to help exceptional children.*
6. *Plan to publicize widely articles on exceptional children that appear in your state bulletin.*
7. *Adopt an active project of service, such as helping to improve state legislation for exceptional children; furnishing leadership that will promote interest in securing school or hospital equipment needed for the handicapped; stimulating teacher education through a special scholarship fund; or studying the whole subject of handicapped children in a parent education study course.*
8. *Find out from your state chairman what other units or councils are doing, and see if, under his leadership, you can all work together to bring about improved conditions.*

Do you remember the old hymn "Make Me a Channel of Blessing Today"? That is exactly what a chairman should be: a channel through which information and practical help—a blessing to exceptional children everywhere—can reach out into the local community. *You can help the state chairman by calling upon him for help.*

—Dr. Elise H. Martens

SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN

Each month several of our national chairmen will offer suggestions for promoting the Four-Point Program. These suggestions should be passed on immediately to the corresponding local chairman as well as to the local Four-Point Program committee. State chairmen, too, are in a strategic position to show how local committees can build unified P.T.A. programs that will bring the full effort of all workers to bear directly on the development of this nation-wide program.

LEGISLATION

TO secure adequate laws for the protection of children and youth is one of the main objectives of the parent-teacher organization. Local members, by their right of franchise, have the power to see that good laws are enacted and the responsibility to see that these laws are enforced. Accordingly, the legislation chairman has the important duty of interpreting legislative measures and guiding members toward action that conforms to parent-teacher policy. Now we are especially interested in legislation relating to the Four-Point Program.

A few suggestions for the local chairman of legislation are as follows:

1. *Get acquainted with your legislators—local, state, and national.*
2. *Know your local, state, and national agencies, particularly those that pertain to the areas of the Four-Point Program.*
3. *Cooperate with your state departments of education, health, recreation, and welfare in the development of their programs and the drafting of legislation to carry them out.*
4. *Provide basic background facts, arguments pro and con, résumés of bills, and other information that will help local members in the study of proposed legislative measures.*
5. *After the legislation program is determined at local, state, and national levels, follow up by:*
 - a. Cooperating with other state organizations in securing endorsements.
 - b. Maintaining as many contacts as possible with the state and national legislators and local officials who are concerned with the passage of any certain measure.
 - c. Publicizing the legislation items through newspaper articles; radio programs; local and state bulletin features; form letters to individual members; and discussions at regular P.T.A. meetings, mass meetings, conferences, institutes, conventions, and so on.

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6. Study the existing laws in each area for the Four-Point Program with a view to bettering them.

Examples of specific items of concern in each area are:

SCHOOL EDUCATION

- Federal aid to education.
- Education of Indian children and of children living on federal property.
- State aid to education and equalization of education within the state's boundaries.
- School attendance laws and school bus laws.
- Local school budgets; bond issues for school construction.

HEALTH

- Federal aid to assist states in setting up and maintaining local health units.
- School lunch appropriations on a federal basis; enabling legislation on a state basis.
- Legislation to enable states to comply with the Hospital Construction Act passed during the last session of Congress.
- Laws concerning sanitation, control of communicable diseases, immunization clinics, and so on.

WORLD UNDERSTANDING

- Support of the United Nations and its component parts.
- The displaced-persons bill.
- The question of universal military training.
- The single standard for state appropriations in the fields of education, health, and welfare.

PARENT AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

- The National Housing Commission Act.
- The Library Service Demonstration Act.
- The rural security program.
- State adoption laws and laws governing foster care.
- Paid advertising of alcoholic beverages.
- Appropriations for adult education.

—Mrs. Stanley G. Cook

This *Bulletin* is issued monthly—except during August—to all members of the national Board of Managers, to 28,000 P.T.A. presidents, and to more than 6,000 other subscribers. Association presidents are urged to circulate it widely among other officers and chairmen.

IMPORTANT HEALTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER CALENDAR

THIS month will see our state health chairmen, state presidents, national officers, and several of the national chairmen gathered together for our health conference on February 16–17. The various sessions at the Hotel Stevens in Chicago will deal with the major health problems of the nation and what resources may be drawn upon to make our public health service more effective. Inasmuch as health is the second area in our Four-Point Program, this conference is of foremost importance.

Some outstanding speakers are on the conference program. Dr. Haven Emerson, chairman of the Subcommittee on Local Health Units, American Public Health Association, will present the statement of health needs and give an over-all plan for extending local health services. Dr. Henry F. Vaughan, dean of the School of Public Health, University of Michigan, will discuss the financing of such services. Several distinguished participants will be heard in a symposium on "Evaluation of Local Health Services," which will be led by Dr. Dean F. Smiley, consultant for the Physical Fitness Bureau, Health Education Department, American Medical Association. Other distinguished participants will include Carl Buck, professor of public health, University of Michigan, and former field director of the American Public Health Association; and Dr. Carl Neupert, director of the state health department of Wisconsin and member of the National Commission for Children and Youth. We shall of course relay the results of the conference to you when all the reports are in.



• This group of parent-teacher leaders in Hawaii are making a recording for use over one of the local radio stations in Honolulu. Seated from left to right are Kilmer O. Moe, president of the Hawaii Congress; John E. McCarthy, field organizer and editor of the *Hawaii Parent-Teacher News Bulletin*; Mrs. S. W. Sohn, a leader of the Korean community; Mrs. Maed Carson, second vice-president of the Hawaii Congress; and Dr. Louise Yim, president of a women's college in Korea and official representative of her country to UNESCO. This photograph was taken during Dr. Yim's brief stop in Honolulu on her way to Lake Success.

THE BIRTH OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

A P.T.A. Story for FOUNDERS DAY



ALICE McLELLAN BIRNEY



PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST

Founders Day Pamphlet

Forty-five thousand copies of the 1948 Founders Day pamphlet were distributed free in November 1947 to state congresses. The pamphlet contains pageants, acrostics, a radio broadcast, and a chronological history of our organization. If your copy has not reached you, please get in touch with your state office.

IT IS FEBRUARY 17, 1897, a day in the Gay Nineties. All across the country, from Park Avenue in New York to Nob Hill in San Francisco, there is something joyous in the air. Captains of industry are saying that times are the best since the panic of ninety-three, only four years ago. The politicians are calling it the period of the full dinner pail. Upper Manhattan is still buzzing with talk of the latest fancy ball, and the Met was jammed to suffocation at the previous night's production of *Faust*. All America, it seems, is learning to play. Not merely New York and Washington, but every self-respecting city is providing parks for its citizens. Four have even built children's playgrounds.

PROGRESS is the spirit of the times. Theatergoers are cheering the great tragedienne, the divine Sarah Bernhardt, but a few are wondering whether that new amusement, the motion picture, will have any effect on the stage. Educational circles are astir over the new science of child study, the application of Herbart's theories of apperception and enrichment of school life by "correlation of studies" and use of lantern slides and maps, those forerunners of today's visual aids. Kindergartens are being added to many school systems despite the sniping of some conservatives who call them "fashionable fads that help women escape the care of their children." The woman's suffrage movement is bearing fruit, for already women have the vote in four states. Even some brave men are champions of the weaker sex. One of them has gone so far as to tell a feminist gathering, "Some day the women will vote on every issue, and when that day comes, God help immorality and rum!"

AMERICA is growing up, it is easy to see—growing almost out of its breeches. Its industry is becoming too great to be self-contained, and eyes are being cast toward foreign raw materials and markets. The country is still largely isolationist, but it is beginning to flex its muscles. The international scene appears ideal for a period of expansion. The major powers are at peace, paying only scant attention to faraway fighting in Greece and rebellions in Cuba and the Philippines. The United States and Britain have just written an arbitration treaty calling for the settlement of disputes by diplomacy rather than by war, and there is even talk of a universal peace union.

THIS is a day in the Gay Nineties, an era bustling with progress and growth. But beneath the gaiety lies a current of social revolution. Trouble is brewing for the captains of industry, for on that very day, February 17, 1897, a congressional committee is investigating the huge sugar and rubber trusts. The Knights of Labor and the A. F. of L., spurred on by union gains since the railway strike of 1894, are struggling to share in the nation's fabulous fortunes. Reputable writers are demanding shorter hours, an end to sweatshops, safety regulations in factories, workmen's compensations, and a tax on incomes.

EDUCATORS, pointing out that three fourths of all students leave school before reaching the fifth grade, are calling for increased appropriations to the public schools, more attention to teacher training, more practical curriculums, and greater consideration for handicapped children like sixteen-year-old Helen Keller.

DOWN in the tenements of Bone Alley and the Bowery, crusading magazine writers have found children dying from neglect. Unlike the industrialists and worshippers of progress, the journalists are thoroughly sick

of their times. They are exposing corruption in high places, yearning for the lofty spiritual values of the Middle Ages, and looking forward to a utopia where poverty might be forever banished. It is the Gay Nineties, all right, but underneath, America's conscience is beginning to hurt. The time is ripe for reform—especially for launching a movement directed toward the welfare of children.

INTO this world, on that selfsame day, February 17, 1897, the National Congress of Mothers was born. It was conceived in the mind of a pretty, intelligent young woman, Alice McLellan Birney, a happy wife and the mother of three children. In Washington, D. C., where her husband practiced law, she enjoyed a high social position. Fortunately, she has left her own record of the origin and growth of the idea of a National Congress devoted to the welfare of the child, motherhood, and the home. On a few pencil-written sheets torn from a little notebook we have the following account in Mrs. Birney's own hand:

"At the time of the birth of my last little daughter, Lillian H. Birney, in January 1895, the idea which culminated in the National Congress of Mothers came to me. We had been living in Washington not quite two years, and I was impressed, as I am sure most new residents must be, with the great number of conventions and assemblages of all kinds and for all purposes held at the national capital. Filled as my mind was with the great mystery of birth, the solemn responsibility of parenthood, and the utter helplessness of the little being by my side, I built in imagination a new world, such as it seemed to me might be a reality if each newborn soul might enter into life in a happy, uplifting environment.

"There was no novelty in such an idea. Hundreds have held it besides myself, and from childhood, while sympathizing with all forms of suffering, the injustices perpetrated upon little children through ignorance or neglect had aroused my indignation. Oppressed with a sense of needless suffering, I asked myself for the thousandth time, 'How can it be prevented? How can the mothers be educated

and the nation made to recognize the supreme importance of the child?' Congress was in session at this time, and I knew how its doings were telegraphed to all parts of the earth and how eagerly such messages were read, in this continent at least, and then like a flash came the thought: Why not have a National Congress of Mothers, whose growth would quickly become international? It seemed the full answer to all my perplexed questioning."

PRACTICAL as well as visionary, Mrs. Birney realized that a task such as this could not be successfully undertaken by one person alone. The first essential was to enlist the right kind of women leaders, whose combined energies and planning could make Alice Birney's dream a thing of substance and reality. Among the first of her earnest supporters was Phoebe Apperson Hearst—the gracious and generous Mrs. Hearst, widow of the senator from California. The assistance she gave to the plan for a mothers' congress exceeded Mrs. Birney's wildest hopes. Phoebe Hearst not only speeded the preparations for the First Congress but paid its expenses and in large measure supported the work for the first few years.

MEANWHILE, Mrs. Birney was telling other women about her dream—at mothers' clubs, social gatherings, meetings of all kinds. And everywhere women listened eagerly, understood, and wished her well. She paid her respects to Mrs. Cleveland, the First Lady of the land, who gladly permitted her name to be used in enlisting the wives of the Cabinet members. Then, as plans for a nation-wide meeting took form, Alice Birney spent hours every day writing letters and composing circulars that were printed and mailed by the thousand. She and Phoebe Hearst and their group of hard-working associates wrote to prominent men and women asking their help in obtaining newspaper publicity and in securing, in each of various localities, the name of one "woman of position," a key person to whom correspondence might be directed.

AT the home of Mrs. Hearst, where the group met every few days, Mrs. Birney was elected president and Mrs. Hearst first vice-president. Other officers were elected, too, and chairmen were appointed for several committees. When the date February 17, 1897, was agreed upon as the proper time for the first meeting, these enthusiastic pioneers got down to practical details. The Arlington Hotel in Washington, D. C., was engaged as headquarters. Guests might stay there for four or five dollars a night, and the banquet hall would be an ideal spot for the meetings—ideal, that is, except that it was large and the handful of delegates might find its emptiness drafty and depressing. For despite their incessant labors, their voluminous correspondence, these women were realistic; they did not expect more than a token attendance. "If only fifty mothers come," Alice Birney told her sister-in-law, Mrs. Arthur A. Birney, "I shall be satisfied. Yes, even if only twenty-five are there."

YET when the day arrived, a horde of men and women flowed into the hotel like a tidal wave, filling the ballroom, sitting on the window ledges, blocking the doors! Hundreds were turned away. There were more than two thousand of them, of whom three hundred were delegates. The First Baptist Church, used for the later meetings, was so crowded that the gentlemen of the press had to sit on the edge of the baptistery. The last meeting had to be held in the Armory above the old Central Market.

MOTHERS poured in from all states, one woman bringing her seven children. Clubwomen came, educators, and reformers. A few fathers came, and at least two of them spoke up. One courageous man arose in meeting and said,



Mrs. David O. Mears, first president of the New York State branch, for many years member of the national Board of Managers, and originator of Founders Day.

"There is too much maternal monopoly here. I speak for the rights of *man!*" And another announced, "What the world needs is a little more father!" As if to confirm this opinion, a mothers' club in San Francisco sent a young man, a recent graduate of the state university, as its delegate.

THE three days of the meeting were, not unlike present-day conventions, packed with lectures, discussions, and conferences. Glancing at the attractively designed programs, sewed and tied with delicately tinted silk cord in the manner of the time, one wonders whether the first National Congress of Mothers had not, like Sir Francis Bacon, taken all knowledge for its province. All knowledge of children, that is, for the subjects ranged from a talk on mothers and children in primitive tribes, by the ethnologist Frank Hamilton Cushing, to "Reading Courses for Mothers" by Margaret E. Sangster. The anti-vice crusader, Anthony Comstock, gave a brief but scorching address about the effect of evil literature upon the minds of youth. Kindergartens came in for serious consideration, as did day nurseries for "mothers of the submerged world" of city slums. Discussions of heredity, nutrition, physical culture, and child development brought the newest ideas on health and growth to an enthralled audience.

THE Founders and their co-workers had done well with this first program. All the speakers were persons of fine judgment and excellent national standing. The educational psychologist G. Stanley Hall came down by noon train from Clark University at Worcester, of which he was president, to address the body at an afternoon session. With all the detachment and authority of the true scientist he summed up current research in child study. He prophesied the philosophy of the modern school curriculum when he urged that "interests must be utilized, each at its golden period; it enables a vast amount of work to be done without fatigue." This was the beginning of Dr. Hall's long and happy association with the National Congress.

MANY an organization has been launched with a fanfare of imposing names and a parade of important personages. Not so the National Congress. Neither Alice Birney nor Phoebe Hearst wanted their dream to be realized at the expense of sincerity and simplicity. No borrowed brilliance or prestige for them. Yet it was also true that sev-

eral of the women who worked to bring about the First Congress were known and noted all over America. There was, of course, Mrs. Grover Cleveland, who had opened the doors of the White House to the delegates as they arrived and entertained them at tea in the East Room that afternoon. Among the officers and chairmen were Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson, wife of the Vice-president of the United States; the wife of the Postmaster General; and the sister of the Secretary of Agriculture. And in that tireless sponsoring group were three other wives of Cabinet members and the two daughters of the Secretary of the Navy.

IT would be crediting too much to human nature if one denied that these great names had a certain drawing power. However, the new organization depended not on reputations but on efforts. These women, like the others whose combined strength and intelligence gave vigor, purpose, and form to the First Congress, were leaders in their own right, never by virtue of their social position.

IN her address of welcome Mrs. Birney outlined the objectives of the Congress. Its all-embracing aim was to be child study on the part of mothers and fathers and teachers and everyone who had anything to do with children. Nine resolutions were adopted by the Congress, among them an endorsement of the work of the Universal Peace Union. Other resolutions recommended establishing public kindergartens, raising the age of protection for girls, and excluding from home newspapers all items that did not "educate and refine."

WHEN the group adjourned the National Congress of Mothers had become both a fact and a potential force. Public response to the summons was reflected in newspaper accounts of the meeting. The *New York Times* hailed it with a four-deck headline at the top of page one and throughout the sessions made the National Congress its lead story. How wonderful it would be, an enthusiastic *Times* reporter suggested prophetically, if this national organization could extend downward into neighborhood congresses of mothers all over the nation. Indeed the First Congress had not even come to a close before a group of women from New York broached the subject of organizing state branches, and in the autumn of 1897 the New York Assembly of Mothers was formed as the first state branch of the National Congress.

—A reprint of Chapter I of the GOLDEN JUBILEE HISTORY

FIFTY OR MORE

• The following associations have promoted the Four-Point Program by achieving fifty or more subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*:

Humes High	Memphis, Tenn.	361	Maple Avenue	Newark, N. J.	74	Kendall	Tulsa, Okla.	50
Jefferson	Erie, Pa.	217	East Over School	Charlotte, N. C.	74	Sequoyah	Tulsa, Okla.	50
Central	Greensboro, N. C.	187	Silas W. Gardner	Laurel, Miss.	70	Capitol Hill	Portland, Ore.	50
S. M. Inman	Atlanta, Ga.	135	Baker	Altoona, Pa.	70			
Polk	Ogden, Utah	133	Whittier	Oskaloosa, Iowa	69			
Audubon Grade	Audubon, N. J.	119	Lincoln	Kingsport, Tenn.	67			
Lindley	Greensboro, N. C.	116	East Clinton	Huntsville, Ala.	66			
Emerson	Phoenix, Ariz.	107	Junior High	N. Little Rock, Ark.	64			
Brackett	Arlington, Mass.	105	Centennial	Pueblo, Colo.	64			
Grammar School	McComb, Miss.	104	Lafayette	Salt Lake City, Utah	64			
Franklin	Wichita Falls, Texas	103	McRae	N. Little Rock, Ark.	63			
Kingsport	Kingsport, Tenn.	102	Aliceville	Aliceville, Ala.	61			
Longfellow	Erie, Pa.	98	Ruleville	Ruleville, Miss.	61			
Darstown	Darstown, N. J.	90	Highland Avenue	Montgomery, Ala.	60			
Woodstock	Anniston, Ala.	83	Ninth Ward	Eau Claire, Wis.	60			
Fairview	Camden, Ark.	83	Aycock	Kannapolis, N. C.	59			
Darwin	Chicago, Ill.	77	Lincoln	Ogden, Utah	58			
Terrace	Baton Rouge, La.	75	Evergreen Park	Evergreen Park, Ill.	55			
			Braswell	Rocky Mount, N. C.	55			
			Schaeffer	Lancaster, Pa.	54			
			Danville Grade	Danville, W. Va.	54			
			Walnut Street	Woodbury, N. J.	53			
			School 15	Tuckahoe, N. Y.	53			
			Fort Hill Jr. High	Dalton, Ga.	51			
			Bruce	Macon, Ga.	51			
			Peninsula	Portland, Ore.	51			
			Morningside	Atlanta, Ga.	50			
			Hayes	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	50			
			Mansfield	Mansfield, La.	50			

How many times is your state mentioned?

• Because of the clerical work involved, the above list includes only those units that have sent in an order of fifty or more subscriptions *all at one time*. However, if your association has sent in several smaller batches of subscriptions and your total is now fifty or more, will you please send us this information:

Name of association

Date (or dates) of orders sent

Total number

With your cooperation, the "Fifty or More" list should be greatly increased next month.

Highlights OF THE MONTH

In the February issue of
**NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER:
THE P.T.A. MAGAZINE**

The Price of Prejudice by Ethel J. Alpenfels

• "The price of prejudice in our society is the price of peace," declares the author of this convincing article on a subject of present-day concern. Miss Alpenfels does more than point out the fallacies in racial and religious prejudice; she lists five practical ways in which we as parents and teachers may help to decrease such prejudice in our children.

Sex Questions Start Early by Marion L. Faegre

• Whether or not parents have devoted much thought to sex education, they have been giving it to their children—and often it has been of a negative sort. A mother or father who has been feeling inadequate when it comes to children's questions about sex should read Mrs. Faegre's helpful discussion on how to give the kind of guidance young people need.

Better Lives for All Our Children 6. The Fourth Security—Varied Experience

by Bonaro W. Overstreet

• Do the children in your home have some useful work to do as a part of the whole family group? And are these home activities varied and interesting? This month Mrs. Overstreet gives us a valuable check list of just such questions as these, questions by which we can measure our own home as an experience-center for the child. For as she points out in her lucid manner, "every experience that becomes part of a child's past becomes also part of his future."

Are You Telling Them? by Bess Sondel

• This article is written by a speech teacher whose life work consists of helping people "reach out and achieve by words what is so easily accomplished by a silent handclasp." And in bringing her valuable experience to bear on the problems of "purposive living" in the home, she presents several rules for keeping family conversation goal-directed.

Motion Picture Previews

Prepared under the Direction of Ruth B. Hedges, Motion Picture Chairman, California Congress

• "Do you think we should let Johnny go to see *Captain from Castile*?" "Susan wants the family to see *Gentleman's Agreement* tonight. I wonder if that picture is too mature for a fourteen-year-old." "The picture at the neighborhood movie is called *Man About Town*. I can't tell from the title whether or not it would be suitable for the children."

There is scarcely a parent anywhere who at one time or another hasn't pondered the question of which movies are worth while and which are questionable or perhaps harmful to young minds. That is why the *National Parent-Teacher* carries "Motion Picture Previews" each month in order to give parents just the sort of information they need. For instance, the February issue will let them know that *Captain from Castile* is approved for children eight years old or over, that *Gentleman's Agreement* is not too mature for a fourteen-year-old, but that *Man About Town* is not suitable for anyone under eighteen.

Current and forthcoming motion pictures are grouped into three classifications: Junior Matinee, Family, and Adult. And you may be sure that the reviews are made from a parent's viewpoint in considering the virtues or shortcomings of any particular film. The editors of the *National Parent-Teacher* are sure this feature is one of the most helpful in the magazine, because so many readers have written and told them so!

NPT Quiz Program

Guest Conductor: Herman N. Bundesen, M.D., President of the Chicago Board of Health and Author of *The Baby Manual*

• The "NPT Quiz Program" is one of the most popular features of the *National Parent-Teacher*. Its up-to-the-minute questions submitted by perplexed parents and teachers are answered each month by a guest conductor who is an expert in his particular field. Among this month's questions, for example, are these:

Why should I nurse my baby?

How can I coax my year-old daughter to eat her food?

What are the essentials for furnishing a child's room?

The answers are all in the February issue!!

PARENT-TEACHER HISTORY

• In an attractive compact book we have compiled an informal fifty-year history of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Entitled *The Golden Jubilee History* in commemoration of our half century of service to children, it will make an interesting addition to a parent-teacher bookshelf or to the library in any P.T.A. member's home. As a gift to a person retiring from a parent-teacher office, it is ideal for it contains information never before published, including many pictures of parent-teacher personalities, activities, and places that have been noteworthy throughout the years.

• If your P.T.A. is interested in having a historical record of the origin and progress of parent-teacher work in the United States, it will immediately budget \$1.25 for a copy of this book. It may be ordered from your state office or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois.



OUR BIG TEN TOPPERS

• From now until May the *Bulletin* will carry each month a list that will show

the standings of the various state congresses as they continue to pile up subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*. Here are the latest figures available:

Ten states showing greatest gain in subscriptions for the period April 1 through November 30, 1947:

1. Illinois2066
2. Ohio1936

3. Iowa1266
4. Alabama1103
5. California1090
6. Pennsylvania1042
7. Oregon958
8. Missouri926
9. Florida807
10. Texas776

Ten states sending in the most subscriptions for the period April 1 through November 30, 1947:

1. Illinois8394
2. Ohio6201
3. California5783
4. Iowa5092
5. Alabama4974
6. Texas4927
7. Pennsylvania4776
8. Indiana4758
9. Missouri4592
10. North Carolina4589

Are You Helping Your State Congress To Be "In the Running"?